LANDSAT 7 MONTHLY UPDATE

The Landsat 7 Mission, developed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, is managed by the U.S. Geological Survey under authority established by Presidential Decision Directive NSTC-3.

Program News

New Landsat 7 Program Manager

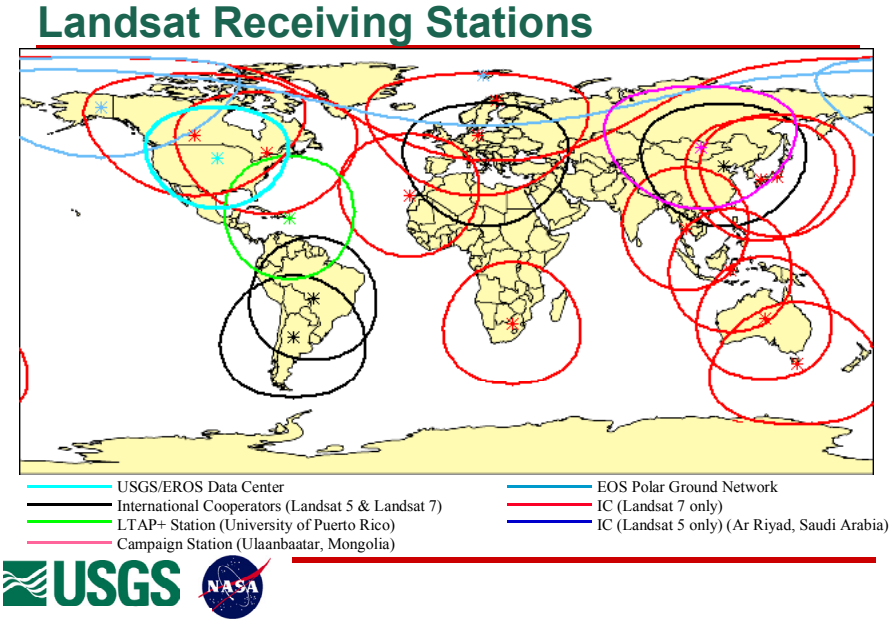
Ms. Tracy Zeiler has been selected as the U.S. Geological Survey Landsat 7 Program Manager. She has been the acting program manager since February 2001, and is replacing R. J. Thompson. Before joining the USGS EROS Data Center staff, Ms. Zeiler worked in private industry and at the Alaska Synthetic Aperture Radar facility in Fairbanks, Alaska. She carries degrees from the University of Virginia (BSME) and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (MSCS) and has earned a Professional Engineering License.

IGS Metadata

International Ground Station (IGS) metadata from Canada, Australia, South Africa, Japan, China, and Europe continue to be archived successfully. As of February 28, 2002, there were 8,469 Landsat 7 IGS subintervals archived for 137,663 Landsat 7 Worldwide Reference System (WRS) scenes. IGS metadata from Argentina (COA), Brazil (CUB), and Thailand (BKT) are currently being tested. Tape ingest for IGS metadata and browse is functioning, and is scheduled for operations during the first half of March. Brazil (CUB) will be the first IGS to utilize this new functionality. The USGS IGS Web pages and the EOS Data Gateway IGS ordering link pages are in the process of being reviewed by each IGS. Several IGS have provided updated URLs, text, and logos.

Ground Station Network

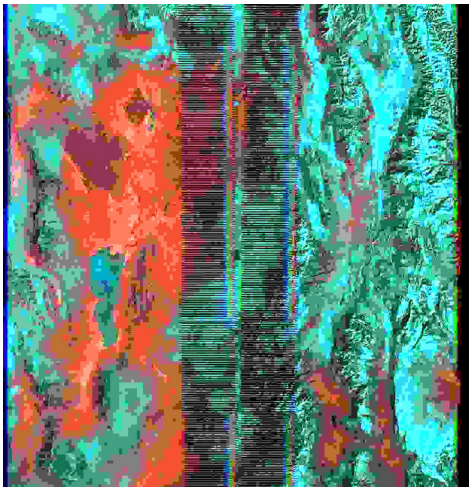
The network of International Ground Stations provides opportunities for virtual global coverage from Landsat 7. The network of ground stations and coverage are represented in the following graphic:



Technical News

Landsat 5

Over the past few months, the Thematic Mapper on Landsat 5 has experienced an occasional delay in scan mirror synchronization with the calibration shutter. The delay allows the shutter to obscure parts of the scan line during imaging. This shows up as "caterpillar tracks" in the data. While the effect is related to the age of the instrument, analysis indicates that it may be controlled by carefully maintaining the temperature of the scan mirror assembly. The Landsat 5 Flight Operations team is conducting tests that add heat to the payload system. This should result in eliminating the delay of synchronization



Multi-scene Products

The Landsat 7 L0Rp and Level 1 multi-scene products are nearing availability. Final software modifications and testing are currently being conducted on both products. An April release date is expected. The L0Rp product will be initially available in 0.5 to 10 WRS scene equivalents, while Level 1 products will initially be available in 0.5 to 3 WRS scene equivalents. Customers will be able to select data down to the scan line, if necessary. Final pricing directives are being determined and will soon be released.

Data Validation and Exchange

The Cuiaba, Brazil ground station provided the USGS with L0Rp data for the scheduled biannual re-validation. These data were processed on the USGS systems and are found to be of equivalent quality to the corresponding data residing at EDC.

Meetings

Business Partners Meeting

On April 19, 2002, a meeting of the USGS satellite Business Partners will be held at the USGS National Center in Reston, Virginia. Current and potential Business Partners will meet to discuss efficiencies of the program, policy changes, and plans for future programs. For further information, contact Paul Severson at pseve.usgs.gov or by telephone at 605-594-6966

The Landsat monthly update is an informal communication tool, prepared monthly and distributed electronically to USGS Landsat partners, to provide information about Landsat activities and related topics of interest. Comments, corrections, and queries may be directed to Ronald Beck, USGS Landsat team, at the following e-mail address: beck@usgs.gov.

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey